

Q3 5 (amended). The gene expression library of Claim 4 in which the vector is a shuttle vector [capable of replicating] that replicates in different host cell species or strains.

Q4 8 (amended). The gene expression library of Claim 7 in which the host cells have been modified by the introduction, induction or overproduction of a known metabolic pathway of interest or portion thereof prior to containing the expression constructs.

Q5 10 (amended). The gene expression library of Claim 7 in which the host cells further contain a reporter regimen tailored to identify clones in the library that are expressing desirable metabolic pathways, ^{products,} ~~gene product~~ or compounds.

C 11 (amended). The gene expression library of Claim 7 in which the reporter regimen comprises DNA encoding a reporter gene operably-associated with a regulatory ^{products,} ~~gene product~~ region that is inducible or modulated by the desirable metabolic pathways, ~~gene product~~ or compounds expressed by the host cell.

C 12 (amended). The gene expression library of Claim 7 in which the host cells are in a matrix containing a reporter regimen tailored to identify clones in the library that are ^{products,} ~~gene product~~ expressing desirable metabolic pathways, ~~gene product~~ or compounds.

13 (amended). A method for making a mobilizable combinatorial gene expression library, comprising ligating a shuttle vector[, capable of replicating] that replicates in different species or strains of host cell, to one or more cDNA or genomic DNA fragments to form a pool of expression constructs, wherein said cDNA or genomic DNA

a5 fragments in the pool of expression constructs are obtained from a plurality of species of donor organisms, and wherein the genes contained in the cDNA or genomic DNA fragments are each operably-associated with their native or exogenous regulatory regions which drive expression of the genes in an appropriate host cell.

a6 15 (amended). The method of claim 13 wherein [some of] the cDNA or genomic DNA fragments contained in the expression constructs are preselected for a specific property.

c 16 (amended). The method of Claim 13, 14, or 15 in which the DNA vector is a plasmid vector, a phage vector, a viral vector, a cosmid vector, or an artificial chromosome.

a8 18 (amended). A method for making a combinatorial gene expression library comprising transferring a pool of expression constructs in a species of host organism to another species or strain of host organism, said expression construct comprising a shuttle vector [capable of replicating] that replicates in different species or strains of host cell, said shuttle vector comprising one or more cDNA or genomic DNA fragments [obtained from a plurality of species of donor organisms], wherein the cDNA or genomic DNA fragments in the pool of expression constructs are obtained from a plurality of species of donor organisms, and wherein the genes contained in the cDNA or genomic DNA fragments are each operably-associated with their native or exogenous regulatory regions which drive expression of the genes in an appropriate host cell.

21 (amended). A method for making a biased combinatorial gene expression library, comprising ligating a DNA vector to one or more cDNA or genomic DNA fragments [obtained from one or more species of donor organisms, some of which are selected for a specific property,] to generate a library of expression constructs, wherein the cDNA or genomic DNA fragments in the library are obtained from a plurality of species of donor organisms and are selected for a specific property, and wherein [in which] genes contained in the cDNA or genomic DNA fragments are each operably-associated with their native or exogenous regulatory regions which drive expression of the genes in an appropriate host cell.

Please add the following new claims :

24~~27~~ (new). The gene expression library of Claim 1, 2, or 3 in which each expression construct is contained in a host cell that contains proteins that mediate transfer of the expression construct by conjugation.

25~~28~~ (new). The method of claim 18 wherein the pool of expression constructs is contained in host cells that contain proteins that mediate transfer of the expression constructs by conjugation.

REMARKS

The specification has been modified to incorporate the Sequence Listing pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.821(c), to insert the appropriate sequence identifiers pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.821(d) and to renumber the pages of claims accordingly.